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Letter dated 19 May 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Honduras to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to write to you in your capacity as President of the Security Council in order to transmit, on instructions from my Government, official letter No. 68/DSS-14 of 16 May 2014 (see annex), whereby the Government of the Republic of Honduras conveys to the Government of the Republic of El Salvador a vigorous protest at the maritime incident that occurred on that date in waters under Honduran jurisdiction in the Gulf of Fonseca, in which one Honduran fisherman was killed and another was injured. In view of the seriousness of this incident, the Government of Honduras calls for the immediate authorization of a binational inquiry in order to ascertain the reasons for this act of violence, in the interest of the calm that should prevail in the Gulf of Fonseca and the manifest desire of the coastal States that it remain a zone of peace and development.

In addition, I should like to refer to official letter No. 03/DSM-2014 of 15 January 2014, addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, whereby the Government of the Republic of Honduras requests that a high-level representative be sent on a fact-finding mission to the Gulf of Fonseca.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and the accompanying documents circulated to the members of the Security Council as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Mary E. **Flores**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 19 May 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Honduras to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Tegucigalpa, 16 May 2014

Official letter No. 68/DSS-14

Sir,

I have the honour to write to you with reference to the regrettable maritime incident that occurred today in waters under Honduran jurisdiction in the Gulf of Fonseca, two miles off the community of Isletas, Municipality of Amapala, on the southern coast of the island of El Tigre, Department of Valle.

As a result of this incident, 18-year-old Luis Antonio Requeno Ramos was killed, and Juan Carlos Elvir Carbajal is receiving medical treatment; both victims are fishermen of Honduran nationality.

In view of the seriousness of this incident, this Ministry, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Honduras, hereby issues a vigorous protest to the Government of the Republic of El Salvador and calls for the immediate authorization of a binational inquiry in order to ascertain the reasons for this act of violence, in the interest of the calm that should prevail in the Gulf of Fonseca and the manifest desire of the coastal States that it remain a zone of peace and development.

To that end, I am transmitting the attached communiqué, released today to the nation and the international community, on this latest incident, which has resulted not only in the bereavement of a Honduran family but also in a violation of the sovereign rights of Honduras and in disregard for the relations of good neighbourliness between our two States.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

(*Signed*) Roberto **Ochoa Madrid**
Acting Minister of State

His Excellency
Jaime Miranda Flamenco
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Republic of El Salvador
San Salvador, El Salvador

Appendix

Communiqué

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Honduras wishes to bring the following to the notice of the nation and the international community:

1. Today, 16 May 2014, at 1040, a maritime incident occurred in waters in the Gulf of Fonseca under Honduran jurisdiction, when the Honduran fishing boat *Zamaria* was rammed without provocation by a Piranha-class patrol vessel bearing Salvadorian naval markings.

2. On board the fishing boat were two Honduran fishermen, Luis Antonio Requeno Ramos, 18 years of age, and Juan Carlos Elvir Carbajal, 25 years of age, who, as a result of the violent manoeuvre by the Salvadorian patrol vessel, sustained injuries and were assisted by Honduran naval elements operating out of Amapala Naval Base.

3. Owing to the seriousness of the injuries sustained, Luis Antonio Requeno Ramos was transferred to San Lorenzo Hospital, where he later died.

4. The incursion by the Salvadorian patrol vessel one and a half miles into waters under the jurisdiction of the Republic of Honduras not only violated the most fundamental principles of peaceful coexistence among States but constitutes a further affront to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Honduras as well as, on this occasion, a blatant act of naked aggression resulting in the death of a Honduran national.

5. Accordingly, the Government of the Republic of Honduras hereby issues a vigorous protest at this latest incident, which has resulted in the bereavement of a Honduran family, in a violation of the sovereign rights of Honduras and in disregard for the relations of good neighbourliness between two coastal States of the Gulf of Fonseca. Further, the Government calls on the authorities of the Republic of El Salvador to authorize, with immediate effect, a binational inquiry to ascertain the reasons for this act of violence.

6. This new and deeply regrettable incident took place two miles off the community of Isletas, Municipality of Amapala, on the southern coast of the island of El Tigre, Department of Valle, in waters subject to the jurisdiction and under the sovereignty of the Republic of Honduras.

7. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation expresses its profound regret at the death of Mr. Requeno Ramos, engaged in routine fishing in national waters, and extends its deepest sympathy to the members of his family on their irreparable loss.